

NATIONAL HONEY REPORT



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HONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST, 2003
IN VOLUMES OF 10,000 POUNDS OR GREATER UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED
- REPORT INCLUDES BOTH NEW & OLD CROP HONEY -

Prices paid to beekeepers for extracted, unprocessed honey in major producing states by packers, handlers & other large users, cents per pound, f.o.b. or delivered nearby, containers exchanged or returned, prompt delivery & payment unless otherwise stated.

CALIFORNIA	- Alfalfa/Cotton, light & extra light amber, \$1.20 - Buckwheat, light amber, \$1.35 - Buckwheat, light & extra light amber, \$1.20 - 1.25 - Mixed Flowers, white, \$1.50 - Mixed Flowers, light & extra light amber, \$1.15 - 1.35 - Orange, white, \$1.45 - 1.55 - Sage, white, \$1.30 - 1.54
COLORADO	- Alfalfa, extra light amber, \$1.06 - 1.49
FLORIDA	- Gallberry, extra light amber, \$1.35 - Gallberry, cut comb, \$1.50 - Orange Blossom, extra light amber, \$1.50 (prev. contract) - Saw Palmetto, extra light amber, \$1.40
IDAHO	- Mixed Wildflower, extra light amber, \$1.25 (small lot) - Mixed Wildflower, light amber, \$1.18
MICHIGAN	- Clover, white, \$1.50 (previous commitment)
MINNESOTA	- Clover, white, \$1.40 - 1.50 - - - light amber, \$1.40
MONTANA	- Alfalfa, white, \$1.54 - - - extra light amber, \$1.45 - Alfalfa, light amber, \$1.30 - Clover, white, \$1.50 - - - light amber, \$1.30
NORTH DAKOTA	- Clover, white, \$1.40 - 1.50
OHIO	- Floral not reported, white, \$1.57

OREGON	- Alfalfa, extra light amber, \$1.43
SOUTH DAKOTA	- Clover, white, \$1.40 - 1.60
	- Clover, light amber, \$1.20 - - - amber, \$1.30
TEXAS	- Chinese Tallow, light amber, \$1.24
UTAH	- Floral Not Reported, light amber, \$1.25
WASHINGTON	- Basin Mix, amber, \$1.20
	- Knapweed, white, \$1.50
	- Mixed Flowers, extra light amber, \$1.40
	- Mixed Flowers, amber, \$1.38
WYOMING	- Clover, white, \$1.53
WISCONSIN	- Clover, white, \$1.52 - 1.55
	- Buckwheat, dark amber, \$1.55
	- Wildflowers, light amber, \$1.42
WYOMING	- Sage, white, \$1.30

Prices paid to Canadian beekeepers for unprocessed bulk honey by packers & importers in U.S. currency, f.o.b. shipping point, containers included unless otherwise stated. Duty & crossing charges extra. Cents per pound.

PROVINCE NOT REPORTED	- Alfalfa, extra light amber, \$1.49
PROVINCE NOT REPORTED	- Clover, white, \$1.45

Prices paid to importers for bulk honey, duty paid, containers included, cents per pound ex-dock or point of entry unless otherwise stated.

EAST COAST.....MEXICO	- Mixed Flowers, white, \$1.50
URUGUAY	- Mixed Flowers, light amber, \$1.18
WEST COAST.....BRAZIL	- Mixed Flowers, extra light amber, \$1.32
BRAZIL	- Mixed Flowers, light amber, \$1.38
CHINA	- Mixed Flowers, white, \$1.08 - 1.10
CHINA	- Mixed Flowers, extra light amber, \$1.03 - 1.45
CHINA	- Mixed Flowers, light amber, \$1.30
VIETNAM	- Mixed Flowers, light amber, \$1.05 - 1.30
VIETNAM	- Mixed Flowers, amber, \$1.30

COLONY, HONEY PLANT & MARKET CONDITIONS DURING AUGUST

APPALACHIAN DISTRICT – (MD, PA, VA, WV) . . .

Bees remained active during August; however, this is commonly a slower period for them as nectar supplies are lighter. They continued to forage on clover and wildflowers during the hot, humid August days, which were interrupted by several scattered thunderstorms. Beekeepers extracted hive honey in August and are reporting a local shortage in supplies. Production estimates are about 50% lower than last year, which has resulted in higher retail prices at roadside markets this season. Beekeepers are reporting colonies have bounced back and are doing very good despite the spring swarming and cool, wet weather during most of the season. Mites levels are very low. Bees are beginning to build brood levels and the fall flow should begin in September for winter honey stores.

CALIFORNIA . . .

The record heat continued into August with the Simi Valley hitting 103 degrees on the 9th. Some relief came the next week when a low pressure system settled in the State. Temperatures cooled and downtown Sacramento received one-fourth inch of rain. Temperatures began to rise again to finish the month with several areas 2-6 degrees above normal. Thunderstorms brought occasionally heavy rain, especially in the foothills and mountains locations.

The bees are reported to be in good condition as they continued to work late cotton, carrots, sunflowers, squash, melons and other vegetable and seed crops. Some hives had to be removed from areas where cotton fields were being sprayed. Only a few losses were reported. Rainshowers in the hills helped keep the tarweed and bluecurl glooming but in some areas the hot weather was accompanied by strong winds which dried everything up. Producers were still extracting and report a good crop of sage and buckwheat from colonies that spent the summer in Southern California.

Beekeeping supply companies report business picked up during August, especially for boxes.

Packers began getting more calls from producers as they extracted this years honey crop. Some are turning down offers because of the price but some packers predict prices will remain fairly stable.

FLORIDA . . .

July and August marks the slow period for Florida honey producers. During this time of year in Florida there is hardly anything in bloom. Cabbage Palm is the one exception in the southern part of the state. Cotton is the exception in the northwest. Unfortunately, the unusual weather patterns of daily rains across the state have prevented any chances of surplus honey production from these two sources. As quoted from Laurence Cutts, Assistant Chief-Apiary Inspection, Division of Plant Industry.

The price of honey has gone down to \$1.10-1.20 per pound due to the large supply of imported Chinese honey that has entered the United States.

IDAHO . . .

Early August continued hot & dry. The last week was cooler. Beekeepers depending on dryland areas found honey production limited by the weather being so hot for so long. Other producers found production from irrigated fields was above average. In many cases, that meant hives had to be moved often to new irrigated field locations. Many beekeepers were still extracting honey at month-end. Bees were in good shape. Producers noted the National Honey Board stayed in business on the referendum and were optimistic about the market for the coming year.

ILLINOIS . . .

August temperatures were hot and humid with some rainfall occurring during the end of the month. However, a few days, temperatures reached a heat index close to 103 degrees. Most beekeepers reported their bees are in generally good condition but more rain is needed for the state. The flow of honey is fairly light to moderate.

Honey prices were generally unchanged.

INDIANA . . .

August temperatures were hot and humid with some sporadic rainfall during the middle and end of the month. Most beekeepers reported their bees are in fair to generally good condition as they pollinated vegetables and gathered food from wildflowers and other plants. The flow of honey is fairly light to moderate.

Prices are generally unchanged.

MONTANA . . .

Heat & dryness continued in many sections of Montana. By the end of August, some areas had not received rain in 70+ days. Great Falls posted a high of 100 degrees on August 10th. It was their eighth triple-digit reading of the year, tying its annual record. A day later, Glasgow hit highs of 100 degrees or greater on six consecutive days from August 11th-16th, breaking a record set in 1936. A strong cold front moved across the State the end of August bringing very small amounts of rain. The front did end Billing's 62-day streak without measurable precipitation easily surpassing its former record of 51 days. It was the second-driest August on record in Billings. Meanwhile, Missoula's maximum of 96 degrees on August 26th marked the 20th day this year with a high temperature of 95 degrees or higher. On the 31st, topsoil moisture was 79% very short & subsoil moisture was 70% very short compared with last years topsoil moisture level of 26% very short & subsoil moisture was 39%.

Beekeepers were busy stripping down hives during August and extracting this years honey crop. Most of this years crop came from the spring flow when it was cooler and most of the State had more than adequate moisture. These conditions also took the colonies into summer in good shape. Bees sitting near irrigated drops came through the summer stronger.

NEW ENGLAND . . .

New England weather for the region during August was hot and dry. Temperatures were above average while precipitation was below average. During the last week temperatures started to cool while precipitation remained below average.

While some beekeepers continue to add last minute supers to there hives, some have started to extracted there fall harvest. Bees are primarily feeding on golden rod and various weeds and wild flowers. Demand for honey remains strong.

NORTH CAROLINA . . .

The major honey flow for North Carolina was over by the end of August. The rainy weather and poor pollination has been a major factor for most of the state. Sourwood supply was very light. The 26th annual Sourwood Festival was held early in August in the western part of the state. Beekeepers stated that this was only the second time in twenty years that rainy conditions had prevented the bees from making honey from the sourwood trees that are plentiful to the area.

Beekeepers and apiary officials in the west are busy preparing for the upcoming county and regional fairs, including the NC Mountain State Fair (September 5-14).

OREGON . . .

August began with many areas across the State experiencing record high temperatures that ranged from 4 – 14 degrees above normal. From the 5th to the 11th, there was an increase in precipitation and considerably cooler temperatures occurred across the State. Some of the precipitation came from thunderstorms that were accompanied by severe hail, doing damage to some crops. Medford reported over an inch and a half of precipitation during the week. By the 12th through the end of the month, conditions returned to hot and dry with many areas reporting temperatures near to over 100 degrees. Wildfires near Sisters, Oregon were 45% continued but had spread to 51,000 acres. It was the driest summer on record at several locations, including Pendleton, that only received .10" or 6% of normal.

Despite the hot, dry summer, the bees appear to be in very good condition. They were able to make a decent honey drop only because the hot and dry conditions came after a cool, wet spring and by the time the end of summer came, crops were dried up and they honey flow was done. Beekeepers that had strong colonies in the spring with plenty of feed made it through the summer in good condition and made a honey crop.

UTAH . . .

Hot and dry weather conditions continued through most of the month of August. The end of the month was cooler. Harvest is in full swing. The outlook varies depending on the location of the hives if the hive was on a field that had water the outlook is good but if the hive was in a area that ran out of water the crop could be short. Bees are in good shape. Wholesale business was slow while retail sales were steady.

WASHINGTON . . .

Hot and dry describes conditions across the State which carried over from July. On August 5th, Yakima received their first measurable precipitation since May 31st. Temperatures were frequently 10-14 degrees above normal in the eastern half of the State while Western Washington ranged 4-8 degrees above normal. Seattle broke a record on the 27th when they had 50 consecutive days with a high temperature of 70 degrees or warmer and the forecast was for more sunny days.

August began in Western Washington with temperatures in the 90's which only made the drought conditions worse. On the 11th, rainshowers broke a nearly 75 day period when little to no precipitation occurred. The rain did little to aid soil moisture levels but brought some relief to drought-stricken crops. The relief was short-lived as hot, dry weather returned to finish the month. Raspberries and blueberries were harvested during August but the blueberries finished up almost a month ahead of normal with reduced yields. Many other field crops were harvested about two weeks ahead of normal due to low soil moisture and hot temperatures. By the end of August, topsoil moisture was 38% very short and 37% short.

WISCONSIN . . .

Temperatures for the month of August were hot and humid for most of the state with fair to moderate amounts of rainfall throughout the state. Beekeepers report ample cleansing flight and some swarming of the bees due to high humidity. Bee colonies were reported in fairly good condition as the bees were gathering food from wild flowers and pollinating vegetables. The flow of honey is fairly light to moderate. Prices are generally unchanged.

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U. S. EXPORTS OF HONEY BY COUNTRY OF DESTINATION, QUANTITY & VALUE

	J U N E		Y E A R T O D A T E 2 0 0 3	
	QUANTITY Kilograms	VALUE Dollars	QUANTITY Kilograms	VALUE Dollars
COMB HONEY & HONEY PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE ----- DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE				
Mexico	---	---	6,999	8,533
Panama	550	2,574	550	2,574
Cayman Islands	1,076	4,334	1,076	4,334
Northern Antilles	---	---	3,301	11,641
Aruba	429	3,345	1,138	5,990
United Kingdom	---	---	816	3,000
Netherlands	---	---	1,009	3,665
France	1,181	4,515	1,181	4,515
Germany	---	---	1,824	5,507
Israel	---	---	3,103	10,000
Kuwait	55,759	73,140	180,630	313,466
Saudi Arabia	37,076	48,633	192,569	286,722
Arab Emirates	---	---	115,170	151,070
Malaysia	---	---	7,385	9,686
Philippines	---	---	33,071	53,684
China	1,656	5,720	3,724	12,870
Korean Republic	---	---	113,668	149,100
Hong Kong	12,325	19,880	17,342	41,731
Taiwan	---	---	3,035	8,879
Japan	---	---	40,454	54,021
TOTAL	110,052	162,141	428,045	1,140,988

HONEY, NATURAL, NOT ELSEWHERE INDICATED OR SPECIFIED ----- DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE

Canada	59,766	130,331	314,611	644,853
Mexico	---	---	1,160	6,682
Costa Rica	2,994	11,484	2,994	11,484
Bermuda	---	---	1,654	7,128
Bahamas	2,551	7,063	4,869	18,439
Jamaica	---	---	2,268	8,799
Barbados	---	---	6,246	23,109
Aruba	---	---	3,030	11,812
Chile	---	---	1,723	8,966
Germany	---	---	21,037	48,098

EXPORTS continued

Singapore	---	---	12,839	21,480
Indonesia	16,819	45,720	67,276	185,040
China	3,089	7,913	21,064	53,957
Korean Republic	---	---	12,756	30,199
Japan	---	---	15,876	45,619
Australia	10,880	28,000	10,880	28,000

TOTAL	96,099	230,511	498,083	1,145,053
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HONEY, NATURAL, NOT ELSEWHERE INDICATED OR SPECIFIED ----- FOREIGN MERCHANDISE

Canada	21,337	57,824	23,049	60,551
Mexico	---	---	1,225	2,841
Costa Rica	---	---	18,600	31,620
Spain	---	---	186,002	360,840
Indonesia	---	---	37,200	37,200
China	20,196	21,002	20,196	21,002

TOTAL	41,533	78,826	286,272	514,054
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U. S. IMPORTS OF HONEY BY COUNTRY, QUANTITY AND VALUE

COUNTRY	J U N E 2 0 0 3			Y E A R T O D A T E 2 0 0 3		
	QUANTITY kilograms	CUSTOMS VALUE dollars	C.I.F. VALUE dollars	QUANTITY kilograms	CUSTOMS VALUE dollars	C.I.F. VALUE dollars

NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE --- WHITE

Canada	356,595	1,221,125	1,230,502	3,540,075	12,195,138	12,287,190
Mexico	203,371	653,874	669,513	506,485	1,559,680	1,594,014
Peru	---	---	---	3,480	5,220	5,506
Chile	19,074	52,010	53,288	1,949,133	5,088,821	5,248,156
Brazil	57,540	139,139	144,784	1,024,242	2,516,278	2,645,081
Uruguay	144,630	413,516	420,262	545,788	1,552,799	1,584,570
Argentina	328,436	830,357	862,656	3,037,127	7,675,622	7,982,609
United Kingdom	---	---	---	7,815	22,081	22,908
Germany	---	---	---	18,000	36,360	37,800
Czech Republic	---	---	---	31,070	82,236	86,636
Hungary	36,000	54,622	56,700	90,000	200,922	207,900
Russia	---	---	---	348	2,018	2,305
Ukraine	---	---	---	34,128	49,690	55,341
Spain	---	---	---	304	2,073	2,120
Romania	---	---	---	105,818	272,252	286,186
Turkey	---	---	---	55,627	117,291	122,632
India	37,200	96,402	101,928	665,900	1,442,379	1,526,675

NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - - WHITE (CONTINUED)

Pakistan	58,301	82,650	90,611	134,301	191,619	208,975
Vietnam	---	---	---	171,400	365,205	387,057
China, Mainland	361,920	595,776	640,508	2,007,495	3,120,499	3,312,272
Australia	---	---	---	19,868	58,956	59,371
New Zealand	---	---	---	800	4,347	4,600

TOTAL	1,417,504	3,509,117	3,625,209	13,967,012	36,585,106	37,693,874
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NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - - EXTRA LIGHT AMBER

Canada	---	---	---	150,769	502,685	511,184
Mexico	60,029	159,363	164,207	303,951	864,711	887,201
Chile	38,162	103,543	105,108	464,048	1,271,835	1,317,132
Brazil	---	---	---	328,600	737,303	771,906
Uruguay	253,367	696,273	708,591	721,051	2,063,691	2,108,858
Argentina	79,440	193,151	205,246	463,988	1,123,935	1,174,656
Austria	---	---	---	460	3,507	3,574
Turkey	37,800	92,194	98,194	98,928	223,715	237,935
India	93,000	206,875	214,934	997,800	2,215,550	2,297,596
Vietnam	---	---	---	401,024	736,946	780,247
China	222,720	311,806	340,188	1,988,644	3,384,997	3,587,852
Australia	---	---	---	18,000	54,660	57,160
Egypt	78,408	159,679	168,159	178,408	324,679	343,314

TOTAL	862,926	1,922,884	2,004,627	6,115,671	13,508,214	14,078,615
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NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - - LIGHT AMBER

Canada	57,266	186,300	189,465	78,055	253,420	256,855
Mexico	345,431	888,705	914,977	2,232,351	5,865,475	6,023,304
Dom. Republic	---	---	---	898	2,640	2,736
Peru	55,440	18,108	24,227	630,138	1,271,637	1,331,543
Chile	40,793	105,068	108,716	1,741,881	4,478,914	4,627,975
Brazil	406,968	966,334	1,013,259	2,043,280	1,889,648	5,116,323
Uruguay	536,725	1,472,296	1,509,289	3,151,549	8,713,562	8,958,295
Argentina	---	---	---	223,791	490,765	512,702
Denmark	---	---	---	12,096	51,710	55,560
France	---	---	---	1,040	4,420	4,634
Germany	10,774	48,469	48,969	117,831	396,361	467,452
Latvia	---	---	---	1,260	2,134	2,364
Ukraine	36,850	81,791	86,161	222,823	493,508	521,143
Moldova	---	---	---	108,490	230,719	239,50
Italy	---	---	---	2,213	5,233	5,745
Romania	---	---	---	339,387	794,967	832,982
Bulgaria	37,700	85,580	90,914	377,330	834,282	893,599
Turkey	110,850	283,460	296,317	985,406	2,379,584	2,507,276
India	---	---	---	996,233	2,092,598	2,229,793
Pakistan	---	---	---	636	2,044	2,273
Thailand	153,959	401,801	417,409	326,166	791,747	823,503
Vietnam	1,097,608	2,359,699	2,521,453	4,411,130	9,155,496	9,701,634
Malaysia	468,000	763,029	848,205	1,478,100	2,228,560	2,468,172
China	878,478	1,310,316	1,428,902	4,131,353	6,266,079	6,719,114
New Zealand	60,530	181,829	187,811	80,570	242,335	250,315
Burkina	---	---	---	19,095	38,190	41,356

TOTAL	4,297,372	9,252,785	9,786,074	23,713,102	51,976,028	54,596,1528
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NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE – NOT ELSEWHERE SPECIFIED OR INDICATED

Canada	---	---	---	95,934	221,533	225,753
Mexico	177,381	474,496	478,746	1,627,359	4,308,424	4,337,124
Dom. Republic	14,453	25,090	27,056	168,581	141,890	156,329

IMPORTS continued

Peru	---	---	---	2,320	3,480	3,670
Chile	---	---	---	95,356	250,604	259,248
Brazil	626	9,073	10,628	374,900	882,767	920,487
Uruguay	---	---	---	58,402	148,573	152,683
Argentina	1,760	5,058	5,258	11,958	36,939	38,645
France	---	---	---	1,112	7,256	8,240
Austria	2,166	13,275	14,644	6,963	42,656	48,389
Switzerland	2,135	15,462	16,178	8,437	60,222	62,498
Ukraine	---	---	---	5,046	8,075	9,140
Spain	---	---	---	6,283	20,895	22,395
Italy	---	---	---	5,119	14,489	15,906
Greece	---	---	---	393	2,680	2,853
India	---	---	---	204,600	465,062	549,995
Vietnam	54,000	86,400	93,000	150,060	257,012	274,770
Hong Kong	---	---	---	5,400	23,364	23,971
Taiwan	---	---	---	36,112	34,937	38,182
Australia	---	---	---	9,969	41,623	44,204
TOTAL	261,881	672,367	690,098	2,873,664	7,015,994	7,239,070

SOURCE: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE,
FOREIGN TRADE DIVISION

U. S. D. A.
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
HONEY RESEARCH & PROMOTION PROGRAM

ON SEPTEMBER 2nd, AMS ANNOUNCED THAT HONEY PRODUCERS AND IMPORTERS, VOTING IN A JULY 25TH – AUGUST 22ND REFERENDUM, ELECTED TO CONTINUE THE AMS-SUPERVISED HONEY RESEATCH, PROMOTION AND CONSUMER INFORMATION ORDER. IN THE REFERENDUM, 59.24% OF THOSE WHO VOTED FAVORED CONTINUANCE, REPRESENTING 61.37% OF THE VOLUME OF HONEY PRODUCED AND IMPORTED BY THOSE VOTING IN THE REFERENDUM.